

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-9 remain in this application. Claim 3 has been canceled. New claim 9 has been added.

In the Office Action dated March 10, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 of the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Costa, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,138,121). For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the present application, as amended, are patentable over the art of record and respectfully request that the Examiner's rejection be withdrawn.

Specifically, the Examiner stated that the Costa reference discloses a "consistency module" in column 8, lines 27-41. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the Costa reference merely discloses a method whereby additional "events" are added to existing lists of "events" which are stored in the individual nodes of the associated network. However, Applicant respectfully submits that any data which has already been stored in such system is not, in fact, subject to modification (or updated as changes) as per the claimed invention.

Moreover, neither the Costa reference nor any of the other cited prior art references teach or suggest, nor even contemplate, any sort of "consistency module" which guarantees that any modified or changed data is transmitted once again to any and all relevant nodes; particularly, any such nodes which simultaneously seek to access such data given multiple access to the same database. Indeed, such process is an aspect of the present invention which allows for initiation of modified or changed data to be transmitted via the relevant nodes by the claimed consistency module.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims of the present invention, as amended, are both novel and non-obvious over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

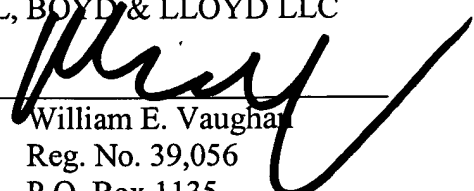
Applicant further submits that no additional fees are due in connection with this Response at this time. However, if any additional fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the Examiner is authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account

No.: 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (0112740-357) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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